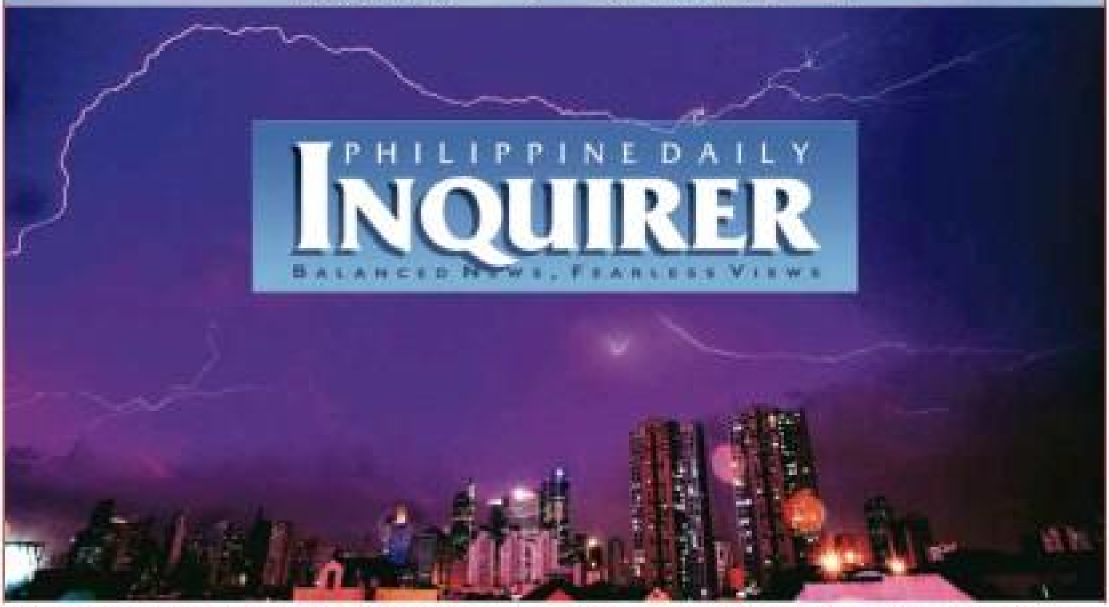


NATURE'S PYROTECHNICS Lightning streaks over the Makati City skyline during a thunderstorm on Tuesday night as the country braces for another dreaded typhoon, "Ramil" by name which is to hit northern Luzon late tonight or early tomorrow.

Erap stars in Palace rerun

The calm scene before 'Ramil' slams N. Luzon

2 teeners cited for heroism

By Yolanda Sotelo
Inquirer Northern Luzon

SAN JACINTO, PANGASINAN—When flooding hit this central Pangasinan town last week, two young men using an air mattress helped rescue scores of residents in danger of drowning.

For their efforts, the Philippine National Police handed out

By Nikko Dizon
and Alcuin Papa

TYPHOON "RAMIL" SLOWED down and slightly weakened yesterday, giving northern Luzon more time to prepare for its onslaught, but weather bureau officials still advised the public to brace for a strong typhoon.

Ramil (international name: Lupit) was likely to hit the tip of Luzon late tonight or early tomorrow morning, officials said yesterday.

Ramil would hardly affect Metro Manila and the rest of Luzon, Pagasa chief Dr. Prisco Nilo said. The rains and winds that would be felt in these areas are



'THE LAST PERFORMANCE OF MY LIFE' Former President Joseph Estrada and Makati Mayor Jejomar Binay announce their bids for the presidency and vice presidency at Plaza Hernandez in Tondo, Manila, on Wednesday. He calls his rerun his last performance. But will it be the greatest?

Poor folk hail bid of their idol

By Philip C. Tubeza and Fe Zamora

SOME CAME BAREFOOT, others in well-worn slippers for what their idol described as "the last performance of my life." Many more wore orange T-shirts emblazoned with his nickname: Erap.

Holding banners and placards, an estimated 10,000 supporters of ousted President Joseph Estrada yesterday converged on Plaza Amado Hernandez in Moriones, Tondo, to hear him declare formally what he had long been threatening to do—run for reelection in May 2010.

In a 40-minute speech, Estrada laid out his political and economic platform and defended his record as president, criticizing the Arroyo administration

Better late than … PNP now has 75 rubber boats

By Marlon Ramos
and Jocelyn R. Uy, in Manila,
and Melvin Gascon
Inquirer Northern Luzon

THE PHILIPPINE NATIONAL Police yesterday sent out a fleet of newly purchased rubber boats not for its antiterrorism campaign, but to aid northern Luzon provinces in preparations for the onslaught of Typhoon "Ramil."

Stung by criticism of the government's mediocre response to the devastation caused by Tropical Storms "Ondoy" and "Pepeng," Interior Secretary Ronaldo Puno ordered the immediate deployment of 11 rubber boats to flood-ravaged villages.

"We pray of course that this typhoon will not cause too much damage to our communities in the north, but we have to always be prepared to do what is necessary to save lives," Puno said at the official turnover of the watercraft at the PNP headquarters in Camp Crame, Quezon City.

Mainly used by the military and the police in sea patrol operations, the rubber boats were utilized in rescuing residents from flooded communities when Ondoy battered Metro Manila and Pepeng

Can he do a rerun? Palace: Let courts rule

By Christian V. Esguerra, Norman Bordadora and Dona Z. Pazzibugan

MALACAÑANG WANTS THE COURTS to decide whether Joseph "Erap" Estrada can still seek reelection as president in May 2010.

Hours before the ousted President and plunder convict was to declare his candidacy in Tondo, Manila, yesterday, Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita

WHAT'S INSIDE

BUSINESS / B1
PLDT group signs deal to buy 75% of ABC 5

METRO / A23
Marikina fault not showing signs of activity

ACROSS / A18
Homeless, jobless and nowhere to go

NEWS / A2
Leptospirosis cases rise; death toll climbs to 138

10 days to go; registration hours extended

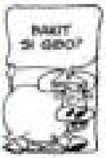
By Dona Z. Pazzibugan
and Michael Lim Ubac

WITH ONLY 10 DAYS BEFORE THE deadline for registration of new voters in the May elections, the Commission on Elections (Comelec) announced it had extended registration hours amid fears 1 million Filipinos may not be able to cast ballots.

Starting today until Oct. 30, Comelec field offices will be open from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. from Monday to Saturday to enlist new voters.

On Oct. 31, the last day of registration, Comelec offices will be open until midnight.

Last week, the Comelec allowed registration on Sundays but only in typhoon-affected areas of Luzon.



Ebdane quits; Palace couldn't wait

By TJ Burgonio

HE MAY HAVE HEARD THE Palace.

Late yesterday, Hermogenes Ebdane Jr. resigned as secretary of public works.

And it looked like Malacañang couldn't wait for Ebdane to hand in his resignation letter, after getting formal word that he is joining the 2010 presidential derby.

Ex-NPA rebs abduct 7 forest guards

By Marlon Ramos

FORMER GUERRILLAS OF THE COMmunist New People's Army (NPA) allegedly involved in illegal logging yesterday abducted seven forest rangers protecting a vital watershed in Bataan City, police said.

The rebel returnees led by a certain Andot Beking seized the foresters of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) at gunpoint while on field survey in Barangay Ani... around 1 a.m., said Chief Supt. Liza Calingasan, the region's police director.

Citing a DENR report, Calingasan



BEST THINGS IN LIFE ARE FREE Inquirer president and CEO Sandy Prieto-Romualdez (left) and Light Rail Transit Authority Administrator Mel A. Robles shake hands on contract to distribute Inquirer Libre for another 2 years in all LRT 1 and LRT 2 stations. On the sides are LRTA Deputy Administrator Cesar B. Chavez and Inquirer SVP for sales and marketing Rene R. Reimoso.

Second FrontPage

WEATHER FORECAST

EZ2		SUERTRES		FOUR DIGIT		MEGALOTTO 6/45
24 3 | 22 26 | 19 6		3 9 2 | 3 5 3		3 6 5 1 | 8 1 4		2 11 18 19 31 33

P13,991,783.40



CALAMITY READY Priests bless newly acquired rubber boats, vehicles and other equipment during turnover ceremonies held at Camp Crame in Quezon City as part of the PNP's disaster preparedness and anti-crime campaign.

Leptospirosis cases rise; death toll climbs to 138

By Dona Pazzibugan

NEARLY A MONTH AFTER TROPICAL STORM "Ondoy" inundated Metro Manila and nearby provinces, the number of leptospirosis cases has continued to rise, claiming at least 138 lives to date.

According to the Department of Health (DOH), 1,687 people stricken with the flood-borne disease are confined in 15 major hospitals in Metro Manila as of Oct. 20.

The number of leptospirosis patients ballooned from 177 to 1,687 in a span of only a week, between Oct. 12 and Oct. 20.

Though hard put to cope with the escalating number of cases, government hospitals are receiving leptospirosis patients for free.

San Lazaro Hospital in Manila, a major state facility for infectious diseases, has 489 leptospirosis patients, 48 of which have died.

The Quirino Memorial Medical Center in Marikina has 300 patients, of which 10 have died.

The East Avenue Medical Center in Quezon City has 242 patients, of which 32 have died. Philippine General Hospital in Manila has 161 patients, of which four have died, while the Amang Rodriguez Medical Center, also in Marikina, has 132 patients of which six have died.

Among private hospitals, the Medical City in Pasig has 183 patients, of which six have died. While St. Luke's Hospital in Quezon City has 69 cases, of which four have died.

Leptospirosis is a rare but life-threatening bacterial infection contracted when contaminated water is swallowed or enters the body through cuts in the skin. The infection is commonly transmitted in floodwaters tainted by the urine of rats and other animals.

Symptoms include fever, a red rash, headaches, redness of the eyes, jaundice, muscle and joint pains, vomiting and fatigue which may appear as early as two days after exposure or as late as 21 days.

Doctors advise early recognition and treatment within two days of the onset of the illness to prevent complications to the kidney, liver and to the brain which could be fatal.

In an attempt to stem the cases, the DOH last Friday started to administer mass antibiotic doxycycline prophylaxis in Marikina where an outbreak has been declared and two municipalities of Rizal where clusters of cases were seen.

Prophylactic doses of doxycycline were given to 3,555 residents of barangays Malanday, Nangka, Tumana and Concepcion Uno in Marikina, as well as 3,296 residents of San Mateo and Rodriguez in Rizal province.

Doctors however said that prophylaxis is not 100 percent effective to prevent someone who has been exposed to contaminated floodwaters from developing the disease.

With Christian Avendaño

MILF joins search for priest's abductors

PAGADIAN, ZAMBOANGA DEL Sur—The secessionist Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) is now "zeroing in on the location and identities" of the kidnappers holding Irish missionary priest Michael Sinnott who was abducted from his residence on Oct. 11.

Eid Kabalu, the MILF spokesperson, said the rebel group is expecting "these two vital pieces of information to be available" within 24 hours.

On Oct. 17, the MILF ordered its troops to help in the search for Sinnott after the government made a formal request through the joint coordinating committee on the cessation of hostilities (JCCCH).

Kabalu said the MILF has narrowed its search to the coastal areas of the Lanao del Norte and Lanao del Sur provinces.

He dismissed earlier reports that the kidnappers had fled the region with their victim.

"They are still there," he said.

Earlier, the crisis management committee of the Zamboanga del Sur provincial government, which is overseeing the search and rescue operations, identified the coasts of Sultan Naga Dimaporo town in Lanao del Norte and the Bagiakay Peninsula in Zamboanga del Sur as the most likely places where Sinnott is being kept.

Maj. Gen. [illegible], commanding general of the Army's 1st Infantry Division which is helping the police in the search, said a priority of the operation is to prevent the kidnappers from escaping to Basilan or Sulu with their victim.

He said troops have intensified seaborne patrols in the shore areas where Sinnott is likely being held.

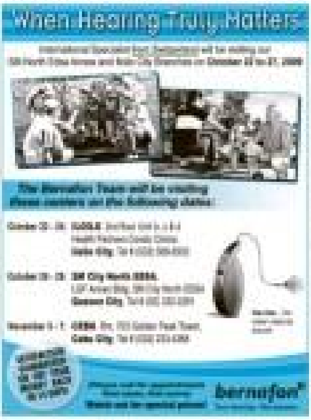
Authorities have also enlisted the support of Bantay Dagat and fishery law enforcement teams in monitoring movements in the sea and coastal villages, said Zamboanga del Sur Gov. Aurora Cerilles.

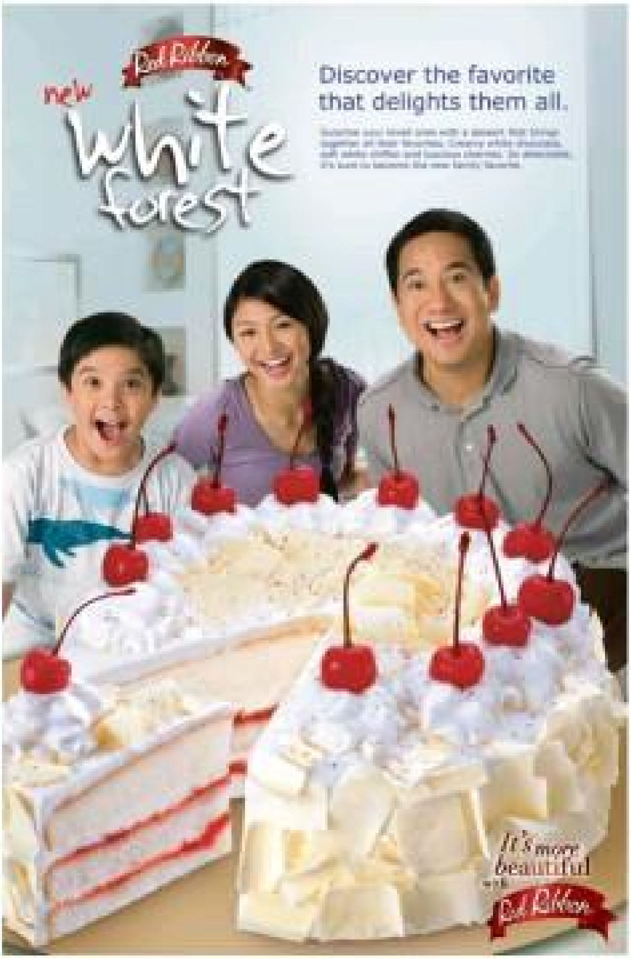
Although the MILF's involvement is limited to determining the whereabouts of Sinnott and the identities of the kidnappers, Kabalu said the rebels would ensure that the kidnappers would not be able to escape.

"We are not here to take the lead," he said, adding that government authorities should be the ones to make the decision on what to do next.

"The safety of Father Sinnott will be a paramount concern in any decision on what to do next," said Director [illegible], police chief of Western Mindanao. *—Ryan D. Rosauro and Julie S. Alipala, Inquirer Mindanao*

Review security policies, malls told







The Provincial Government of Albay, Centre for Initiatives and Research on Climate Adaptation (CIRCA), Office of the Presidential Adviser on Climate Change, Senate of the Philippines, House of Representatives, DENR, GTZ, NEDA, DFA, ACCBio Project, Eco-Coral Project, Christian Aid Philippines, University of the Philippines Los Banos and the World Agroforestry Centre

Cordially invite the national government agencies, Provincial Governments, Local Government Units, academes, business, religious groups, non-governmental organizations, civil society and tri-media practitioners to the

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"Moving Forward on Albay Declaration 2007"

26-28 October 2009, Diamond Hotel, Manila, Philippines

with

Her Excellency
President GLORIA MACAPAGAL-ARROYO

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gtz

Loren says no to Gibo tandem

GMA to push $5-B climate fund at Asean

NEWSBRIEFS

3 quakes hit Visayas, Mindanao

Villar tops mock poll

Purge voters list, Comelec urged

Bulacan hosts co-op congress

Skills training workshop set

The TOPM Search

A Recognition of the PERAA Members' Achievements in their Fields of Expertise

A Commitment of PERAA's Unity with the Aspirations of the Private Education Sector

On PERAA's 37th Anniversary Celebration, The Board of Trustees Salutes The Outstanding PERAA Members (TOPM) & The Outstanding Participating Institutions (OPI)

THE OUTSTANDING PERAA MEMBERS - BATCH 2009

TEACHING CATEGORY








NON-TEACHING CATEGORY

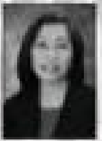






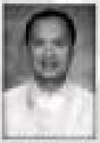

The PERAA Board of Trustees












The Outstanding Participating Institutions (OPI)

TOPM Panel of Judges

Unchanging Focus on Retirement: We are Here for the Long Term

Ebdane quits

Letter of resignation

Mysterious VIP

PDI relief team goes to Pangasinan

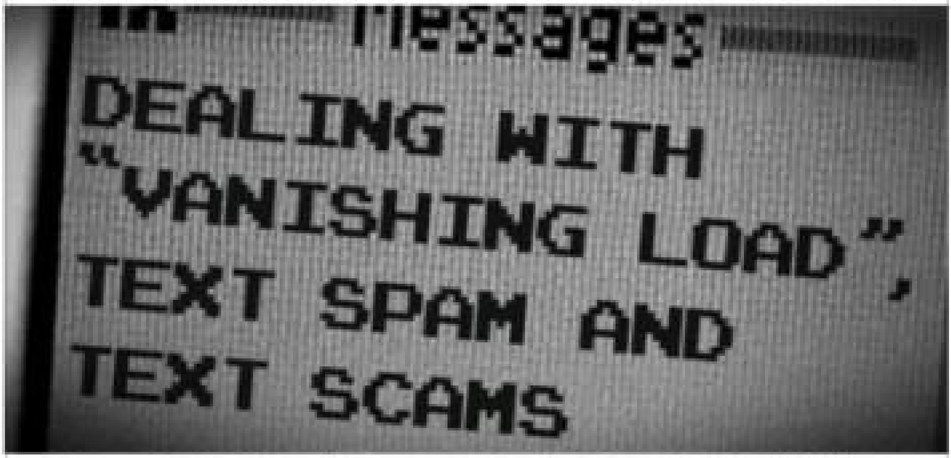




The Daily Gospel



SO THAT THE PUBLIC MAY KNOW



In line with the National Telecommunications Commission's (NTC) thrust to protect the welfare of all cellular phone users, we would like to properly guide all subscribers on what steps to take if they receive text spam, or are victimized by text scams, or feel that their load has not been properly accounted for by their cellular service provider.

Properly Accounting for "Vanishing Load"

Load is consumed through usage or expiration. Load is used by making calls, sending text messages, or availing of value-added services. If you believe that your load has been deducted without your knowledge, please report it first to your service provider who is obliged to provide you with customer service to address your concerns. You may also report this to the NTC.

The NTC is aware that a frequent source of complaints of "vanishing loads" are subscriptions to value-added services that subscribers are hooked into by freebies or similar promotional hooks (i.e. free logo, free ring tone, free horoscope, free music, free video, free wall-paper, etc.) and subscribers often fail to realize that corresponding charges apply when availing of such services. To ensure that you are charged only for services that you truly intended to avail of, subscribers are advised to do the following:

1. Subscribers should read very carefully any message that mentions a freebie come-on or similar promotional hook.
2. The best defense against load decrease is to simply ignore messages coming from an unknown origin. Replying to such messages can consume your load.
3. Report any unsolicited messages that promote subscription to value-added services ("text spam") immediately to the NTC or your cellular phone company at the numbers listed below for appropriate action.

Recognizing and Reporting Text Scams

Text scams come in different forms. Examples of these are the following:

"Congratulations u have won 300 thous pesos + starex van. Ur sim number was a home partner last june 24, 2009 draw. Call this number 9053222878. Contact dr. Rey Ayala 4 info.phil.com.center."

"Musta? E7 bago roaming # ko. Magpapadala ako next wik. Paloadan nyo muna ako ng 500. Wla ko ang load. Ingat kayo lagi."

"Magpadala kayo ng card ng 500 bz benta d2 ng 1,500 ang isa. Mabili ang tubo."

"Asan n ang mga card? Kilangan na d2 ng mga b2l."

" E7 ang mga bagong # na loadan moh rin."

" May package ako sa inyo. May cell phone ka doon, yung sapatos para sa kapatid mo, at yung iba bahala ka na. Paload mo muna ako at wala me time. Send mo agad, wait ko."

"Nalubog celfone ko sa baha. Eto muna no. ko. Pdala naman ng load."

If subscribers receive such text messages, they should do the following:

1. They should not reply to the message.
2. If a cellular phone number appears with the message received, they should inform the NTC or their cellular phone company immediately at the numbers listed below for appropriate action.
3. If messages come from eleven-digit mobile numbers, these are most likely scams. Save the messages and report these to the numbers below.
4. The NTC and the cellular phone companies will then pursue the blocking of these numbers.

NTC One-Stop Public Assistance Center (OSPAC) : (02) 921.3251/ (02) 926.7722/ (02) 920.44.64 **Email Address:** ospac@ntc.gov.ph

NTC Regional Contact Numbers:

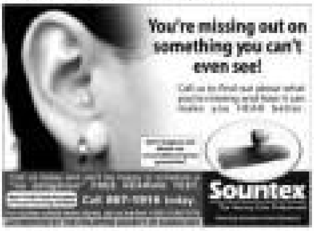
REGION 1: (072) 607.5604	REGION 4 : (043) 723.1245	REGION 7 : (032) 422.6922	REGION 10 : (088) 227.2326	CARAGA : (085) 342.8806
REGION 2: (078) 847.7071	REGION 5 : (052) 642.0400	REGION 8 : (053) 325.8519	REGION 11 : (082) 296.3625	NCR : (02) 924.4072
REGION 3: (045) 961.7068	REGION 6 : (033) 329.8519	REGION 9 : (062) 991.1983	REGION 12 : (083) 322.8808	

GLOBE Contact Numbers: 211 (mobile) ; (02)730.1000 (landline) **SMART Contact Numbers**: *888 (mobile) ; [illegible] (landline) **SUN Contact Numbers**: [illegible] (mobile) ; [illegible] (landline)

Cardinal Rosales tells voters: Learn from past



Pinay arrested in Kuwait for practicing black magic







Erap stars in Palace rerun; poor hail their idol

'He hasn't forgotten'

Color-coded shirts

Power grab

Idol

Food lines

Can Erap do a comeback? Palace: Let the courts decide

Not an endorsement

No comment from CBCP

The 'jueteng' issue

All-out war

Camp Abubakar

10 days to go; register now, Comelec extends registration hours

Estimates could be higher

Last minute

62 additional machines

Remove biometrics

Graft raps vs DPWH execs in lamp post scam pushed

By [illegible]

[illegible]

SERVIAM TO CORY AT 31ST CMMA

Use technology to uplift human spirit, Nuncio tells mass media workers



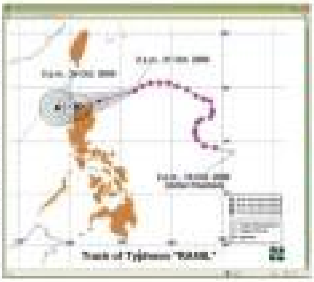
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[illegible]

The calm scene before 'Ramil' slams N. Luzon





Better late than … PNP now has 75 rubber boats



2 teeners cited for heroism in rescue of scores of residents



Isolated Benguet town gets 200 cavans of rice for 1st time

Ex-rebs abduct 7 forest guards

Gunmen wearing bonnets

Ore, timber poaching

Abduction denounced

Source of potable water

INQUIRER

OPINION

Storm lessons

EDITORIAL



A nation of dimwits

VIEWPOINT

Juan L. Mercado

Trust

THERE'S THE RUB

Conrado de Quiros

All politics is local

POLITICAL TIDBITS

Belinda Olivares-Cunanan



The last to know

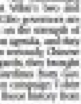
YOUNG BLOOD

Nina Rachelle T. Landicho

Dam lessons from Yu Xiaogang

HUMAN FACE

Ma. Ceres P. Doyo



Hi's and hello's in three stages

THE LONG VIEW

Manuel L. Quezon III



Timeless advice from the ages

LETTERS

After Yorac, PCGG working against interest of small coconut farmers

Instead of a ninth ray, why not a crescent

About flag colors and rays

Across the NATION
Assistant Editor Tony Bergonia

Church slams 'cheated' damage report

By Jonas Cabiles Soltes
Inquirer Southern Luzon

NAGA CITY—THE Church has condemned what it said was the malicious and fabricated reporting of typhoon damages by the provincial government of Camarines Norte, saying the province was spared from Tropical Storm "Ondoy."

Not from Ondoy

GMA proclamation

Governor denies

Intact funds



Pangasinan folk ask: How do we start again?

By Gabriel Cardinoza
Inquirer Northern Luzon

Fields of mud

Seeds, fertilizers

Can't wait

Shirts, phones rain at rally for CamSur gov entry into NP

Accused in slay of journalist killed in Batangas

INQUIRER Southern Luzon

Homeless, jobless and nowhere to go

By LJ Pasion
Contributor

Relief assistance

Appeal to DOLE

Danger zone



BOATS and rafts are the most common means of transportation in Lupang Arenda today as the streets are still submerged from the overflow of the Laguna Lake.

A natural farm, a spiritual retreat

By Kristine Felisse Mangunay



CAREY: One of the CELL founders.

Manmade disasters

Permaculture

Correct attitude

Interdependence



THE GUESTHOUSE of the Center for Ecozoic Learning and Living is primarily made of bamboo and wood.

SPORTS



ODDS EVEN

Lions, Stags start title duel

By Cedelf P. Tupas

Who gave the 'green light?'

HEART, SOUL, SPORTS

Tommy Manotoc

Should the PBA also referee fan behavior?

BARE EYE

Recah Trinidad



Ironman finisher shines

Cebu's Jette soars past Asian kart foes



CALDERON

Yankees near World Series



LOS ANGELES—NEW YORK Yankees pitcher CC Sabathia guided his side to a 10-1 victory over the Los Angeles Angels on Tuesday for a commanding 3-1 lead in the best-of-seven American League Championship Series.

Sabathia pitched eight innings and improved to 3-0 in the playoffs, while the Yankees moved to within one win of their first World Series appearance since 2003.

"We have Hall of Fame players on this team, it's a really good team," Sabathia told reporters, having signed a lucrative deal in the offseason to come to New York.

"I just try to go out there every game and give us a chance to win. I feel really good, hopefully I can keep this going and we can win the whole thing."

The left-hander struck out five and tossed 104 pitches in an overpowering performance aided by an explosive offense that provided all the run support he needed.

Melky Cabrera had three hits and drove in four runs while Alex Rodriguez and Johnny Damon homered for the second time in as many games to help the Yankees to a relatively comfortable win after the last two encounters had ended in extra innings.

Cabrera put the Yankees up 2-0 with a two-RBI single in the fourth and Rodriguez launched a one-run blast in the fifth.

Los Angeles starter Scott Kazmir left the game in the fifth having allowed four runs. Angels reliever Matt Palmer surrendered four runs in the last two innings.

"You feel like the game is slowing down for you a little bit," said Rodriguez.

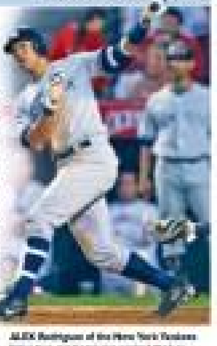
"It's been a while, certainly since I felt this good, I feel blessed. This is the happiest I've been in a while."

A game after coming back from a 3-0 deficit to win in the 11th inning, Los Angeles managed just five hits and one run on Kendry Morales' solo homer in the fifth.

Game Five is on Thursday in Los Angeles where the Angels will put John Lackey on the mound in hopes of extending their season.

The last team to rally from a 3-1 series deficit in a championship series was the Boston Red Sox, who won three in a row to complete a comeback against the Cleveland Indians in 2007.

"We're never going to give up," Figgins said. "We have too good of a team to do that." *Reuters*



ALEX Rodriguez of the New York Yankees hits a two-run home run against the Los Angeles Angels in the fifth inning. REUTERS



UA&P bags WNCAA cage crown

UNIVERSITY OF ASIA AND THE PACIFIC leaned on a second-quarter breakaway to turn back La Consolacion College Manila, 56-35, and snare the Seniors B title in the 40th WNCAA tournament at the St. Scholastica's College gym over the weekend.

[illegible]

Timex Run introduces new gadgets

THE TIMEX RUN WILL INTRODUCE A LOT of innovations when it fires off on Nov. 15 at the Bonifacio High Street in Global City. [illegible]

[illegible]

Zycare-UM nips RTU

ZYCARE PHARMA-UNIVERSITY OF MANILA [illegible]

[illegible]

UGBA Cup finals today

[illegible]

Depleted Lady Stags struggle past winless Lady Maroons

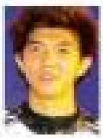
Bagtas-Kim rules PGAP Pro-Am tilt



Sta. Lucia, TNT jam top; SMB scores, finally

SEAG golf qualifier: Asistio, Ababa retain 1-2 positions





FERNANDO

Fernando new Underbone King

Milo Little Olympics kicks off in Cebu City



POC to fund 60 more SEAG bets



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METRO
Editor: Abelardo S. Ulanday

DID YOU KNOW

THE FIRST funeral parlor in the Philippines was established at Plaza Goiti in Manila in 1880. La Funeraria sold coffins imported from Europe.

Cyril L. Bonabente, Inquirer Research

Marikina fault line not moving, says Phivolcs



COPING Students use chairs to cross a flooded schoolyard in Taytay, Rizal. Parts of the town are still submerged in flood waters although almost a month has passed since Tropical Storm "Ondoy" poured a massive amount of rain on Metro Manila.

By Christine O. Avendaño

AFTER FLOODS, CAN EARTHquakes be far behind?

Expert says bomb caused Glorietta blast

By Norman Bordadora

Metro Manila province? Why not, says Palace

Cops in mall shootout should be praised

ON TARGET

Ramon Tulfo



Private schools in 2 Metro cities follow Chiz proposal



BACK TO THE PROVINCE

Expert says . . .

GMA 7 radioman files complaint vs colleague

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

METRO BRIEFS

Nurse killed

UN investigator urges protection of detainees

[illegible]

Int'l group honors 4 female journalists

[illegible]



[illegible]

New lawsuit bares Madoff's prison life

[illegible]

Wanted: 3 bloggers for world expedition

[illegible]

Swiss defend Polanski tipoff

[illegible]



The WORLD

Editor: Lorenzo B. Ocasco

Karzai, rival agree on Nov. 7 runoff





KABUL, AFGHANISTAN—PRESIDENT Hamid Karzai's chief political rival agreed on Wednesday to take part in the Nov. 7 runoff election, setting the stage for a high-stakes showdown in the face of Taliban threats and approaching winter snows.

[illegible]

"We are completely ready for the second round," Abdullah said, calling on Afghan officials to organize a "free, fair and credible election" with enough security to encourage people to turn out and vote.

'Huge challenge'

[illegible]

Relief to US officials

[illegible]



ABDULLAH: We are completely ready for the second round. AP

[illegible]

Intensive talks

[illegible]



RELATIVES pray over the grave of [illegible], one of the eight people killed in Tuesday's suicide bombing at the International Islamic University as government troops battled militants in northwest Pakistan. AP PHOTO

Pakistan shuts all schools after university bombings

ISLAMABAD, PAKISTAN—PAKISTANI Authorities shuttered all educational institutions on Wednesday after twin suicide bombings at a university showed once more the power of militants to disrupt everyday life as they fight back against a major military offensive in the northwest.

[illegible]

"We are inflicting heavy losses on them," he said. AP

BUSINESS

PLDT group signs deal to buy 75% of ABC 5



TV acquisition completes convergence strategy

THE PHILIPPINE LONG DISTANCE TELEPHONE Co. group led by Manuel V. Pangilinan is venturing into the television broadcasting business with a deal to take over a 75-percent stake in ABC Development Corp., owner and operator of ABC Channel 5.

The acquisition, officially announced yesterday, will be made through MediaQuest Holdings Inc., a subsidiary of PLDT Beneficial Trust Fund, the telecommunications giant's retirement fund.

MediaQuest also entered into an agreement to acquire Primedia Inc., a local corporation engaged in developing programming content for television and marketing of airtime, specifical-

PRCI sells 69% interest in JTH Davies Holdings

Sale proceeds to reduce debt

[illegible]

Petron ready to invest P50M

[illegible]

Pepsi-Cola increases Mindanao production

[illegible]

[illegible]

Share prices down 0.86%

[illegible]

PLDT . . .

From page B1

[illegible]

Philippine Stock Exchange

[illegible]

Currencies

[illegible]

3 gov't agencies sign pact on retail investing law

By Ronnel W. Domingo

THE GOVERNMENT YESTERDAY GEARED up for the implementation of a law for pensioners that may cost some P11 billion in foregone revenues in the first year amid ballooning expenses for economic stimulus and reconstruction.

The Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas, the Department of Finance and the Securities and Exchange Commission signed a memorandum of agreement on the uniform enforcement of the Personal Equity and Retirement Account Act of 2008 as well as its so-called "evolve" implementing rules.

When the Pera law was still pending in Congress, the DOF expressed reservation on related bills as these would "complicate the present taxation of pensions and similar long-term savings and investment instruments."

The finance department also argued that the then proposed preferential tax structure for the Pera would discriminate against other private retirement schemes and would not promote any new savings.

But yesterday, BSP Governor Amando M. Tetangco Jr. described the law as being "part of a collective vision [among the signatories of the MOA] of deepened capital development."

Tetangco said the law and its implementing rules would offer "everyday retail investors" the means to transform savings into upper tiers of long-term investments.

The law institutionalizes the Pera, a voluntary provident savings plan that is seen to complement the mandatory retirement systems like the Government Service Insurance System and the SSS, and provide an alternative tax-preferred financial instrument to encourage people to save for old age.

The Pera law also pegs the maximum contribution at P100,000 or its equivalent in any convertible currency, grants a tax credit of 5 percent on contributions, and exempts investment as well as reinvestment income of such contributions from taxes.

Tetangco said efforts related to awareness of and education on the Pera were crucial for the implementation of the law.

"We must realize that we are providing the investing public with simultaneous opportunities in securities, insurance contracts, trust products and banking instruments," the BSP chief said.

According to Deputy Internal Revenue Commissioner Nelson M. Aspe, the agency's own rules in implementing the Pera would be ready within the year.

Group bucks coal-fed power project in Iloilo

By Riza R. Bello

GREENPEACE ACTIVISTS AND Iloilo residents yesterday urged the local government to pull the plug on a proposed coal-fired power plant in Iloilo City, dubbing the project as "illegal."

Greenpeace said in a statement that the "illegal, premature backfilling of the proposed site, despite the obvious environmental impacts it will create and strong public opposition to the project, is unwarranted, especially since there are clean and safe energy technologies—such as wind, geothermal and biomass—that are readily available."

According to the group, the proponents of the project have started on the foundations and erected a mobilized steel structure without obtaining a building permit.

Aside from the structures being built illegally, Greenpeace blamed coal-fired power plants for the increasing incidence of extreme weather events in the country like the recent Tropical Storms "Ondoy" and "Pepeng" that hit Luzon earlier this month, and Typhoon "Frank" that similarly devastated Iloilo with floods last year.

"Operating the coal plant directly contributes to the global climate crisis and local pollution, as well as brings a threat to the health of local residents," said Amalie Obusan, climate and energy campaigner of Greenpeace Southeast Asia.

Greenpeace research showed that there was an abundance of renewable energy potential in the area that could go on stream as early as 2010.

Business

Too many holidays raising BPO firms' costs

Unannounced long weekends worry association more

By Abigail L. Ho

MORE THAN THE UNCERTAINTY OF the upcoming elections and the weakening dollar, business process outsourcing industry players in the country are concerned about Malacañang's penchant for long weekends as this affect their business costs.

Business Processing Association of the Philippines president and chief executive Oscar Sanez said the industry's cost of doing business remained high, and this was exacerbated by the many holidays that required companies to pay their employees extra.

"It's good that (Malacañang) gives us a list of the holidays in advance so this gives companies a chance to include these extras into their planning. It's the unannounced holidays that we're concerned about," he said in an interview.

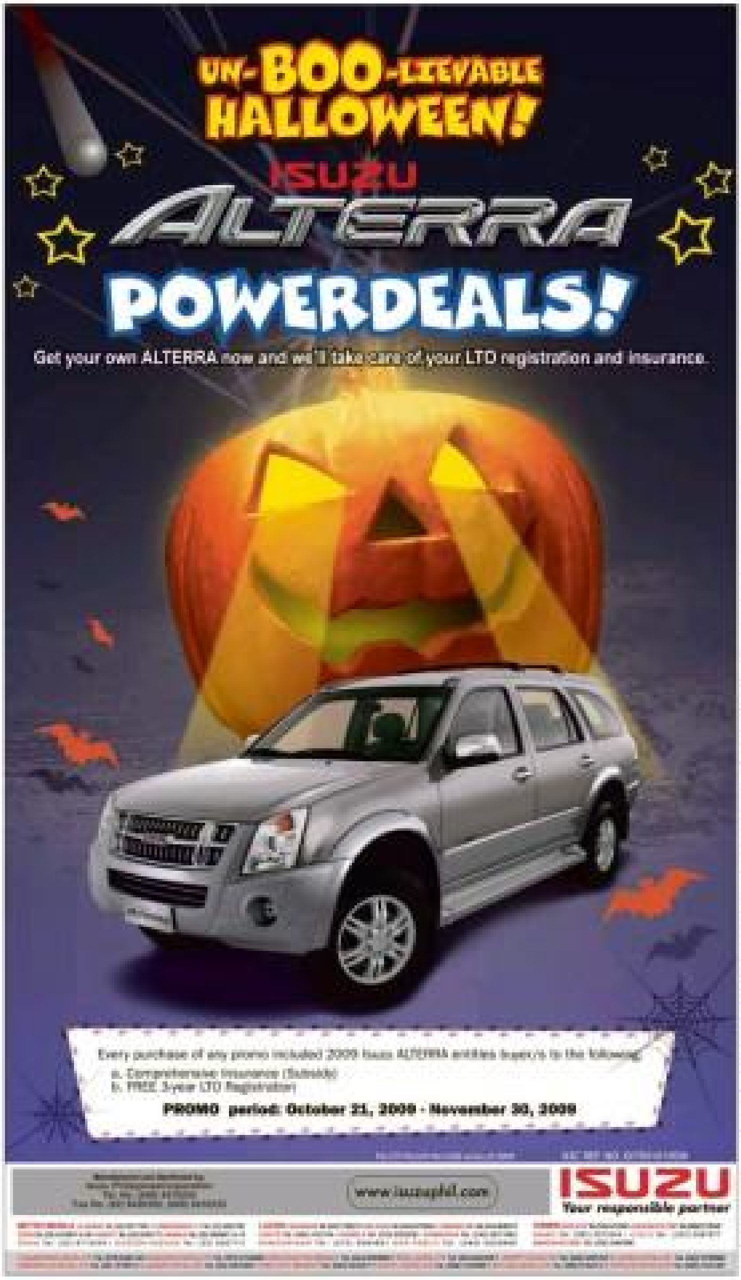
BPAP external relations director Martin Crisostomo said it would greatly help the industry if Malacañang could give them reprieve from paying more every time there was an unplanned holiday.

For example, he said the BPO sector was exempted from giving holiday pay to their employees last month when President Macapagal-Arroyo declared the funeral of Iglesia ni Cristo head Eraño Manalo a nonworking holiday.

He said that it was not that the industry did not want to pay their employees extra. It was just that too many holidays significantly increased BPO firms' costs, as they were highly "employee intensive."

Malacañang has declared two long weekends in November: Nov. 1-2 in observance of All Saints' Day and All Souls' Day, and Nov. 27-28 in observance of Eid'l Adha, or the Feast of Sacrifice, a Muslim holiday observed after the hajj or the annual pilgrimage to Mecca.

Nov. 30, the Monday after, is Bonifacio Day, a regular nonworking holiday.



Coco exports up 32% in July

By Amy R. Remo

PHILIPPINE EXPORTS OF COCONUT products rose by 32 percent in July to 183,867 metric tons in copra terms compared to year-ago level, due to a surge in coconut oil shipments during the month.

However, data from the United Coconut Associations of the Philippines showed that total export receipts dropped by 31.3 percent year-on-year to $102.643 million in the same month from $149 million due largely to declining prices.

Despite the substantial increase in export volume in July, shipments of coconut products in the first seven months stood at only 723,774 MT in copra terms, still 32.5 percent down from year-ago level of 1.069 million MT.

Coconut oil shipments in July jumped by 53.2 percent to 105,614 MT from 68,955 MT in the same month last year. These included 77,091 MT of crude coconut oil, 26,027 MT of cochin oil (refined, bleached oil), and 1,684 MT of RBD oil (refined, bleached and deodorized oil).

Europe was the leading destination during the month, absorbing 54,007 MT or 51.7 percent of the total. The United States followed with 42,648 MT, or 40.3 percent of the total.

Other countries with significant purchases were Japan with 4,150 MT and China with 2,306 MT.

Coco shell charcoal exports in July reached 2,037 MT (up 17.9 percent from 2,486 MT); activated carbon, 1,363 MT (down 12.4 percent from 2,108 MT); glycerin, 1,520 MT (down 25.0 percent from 2,032 MT); fresh coconut, 363 MT (up 33.7 percent from 137 MT); and other coconut-based products, 1,333 MT (up 2.0 percent from 1,306 MT).

However, shipments of other coconut products declined during the month. Copra meal exports fell 7.6 percent to 34,430 MT from 37,265 MT; desiccated coconut exports, down by 41.7 percent to 9,313 MT from 15,972 MT; oleochemicals, down 72.8 percent to 1,288 MT in copra terms from 4,448 MT.

SEC seeking budget for credit information firm

By Michelle V. Remo

THE SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION is urging Congress to allocate a portion of the 2010 national budget for the capitalization of Credit Information Corp. so it can start operations in January next year.

"We target to start its operation on or before the start of next year," SEC Chair Fe Barin told reporters yesterday following the signing of the memorandum of agreement by government agencies concerned in the implementation of the Philippine Equity Reform Act (PERA) guidelines.

The Credit Information System Act (CISA), enacted last year, is aimed at improving the country's credit system.

Credit Information Corp. will serve as a registry of various information that will help banks and other lenders in assessing the credit worthiness of borrowers.

Banking industry officials said the implementation of the CISA would help lower the interest rates charged on borrowers with good credit standing.

Credit Information Corp. will be 60-percent owned by the government, which will infuse P75 million in capital. The private sector will account for the remaining 40 percent.

Barin said officials had failed to include in the proposed P1.4-trillion national budget for 2010 the capitalization for the entity. A portion of the budget was left as programmed, she said, to cover for other necessary expenses not included in the appropriations.

However, Barin said it was preferable that the 2010 budget explicitly appropriated P75 million as capitalization of Credit Information Corp.

With a credit information bureau, industry players said, banks would be more confident to lend even to individual borrowers.

Regulators expect lending to grow after the credit information bureau becomes operational. The entity will be headed by the chair of the SEC, the law states. The President will appoint eight other government officials to its board.

The private sector will have six board seats. [illegible]



LIFESTYLE Food





The book/movie that left you hungry has a sequel—on cleaving, meat and Powell's extra-marital affair



Julie Powell

'But that's not me!'—Julie Powell on 'Julie & Julia'

By Pam Pastor

I WILL FOREVER BE GRATEFUL TO the voice in my head that told me to grab a copy of Julie Powell's "Julie & Julia" right before heading to the cinema to watch the movie.

The movie was an absolute delight. The tiny voice was right. I did want to read the book after watching. That's exactly what I did—after the credits rolled, I tore open the book and started reading just as the car was pulling out of the parking lot.

And while I didn't find the book as magical as the movie (I blame it on the absence of Meryl Streep who plays Julia Child, although Powell did mention her once in the book), it's still worth a read.

Story

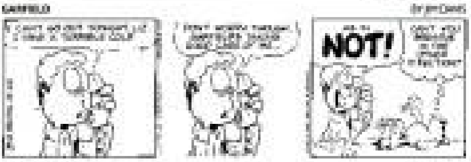
Julie Powell was not satisfied with her life. She lived in New York, had married her high school sweetheart and was working for the Lower Manhattan Development Corporation, stuck in a job

BUT THAT'S NOT ME! C4

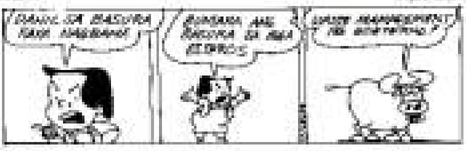




GARFIELD — By Jim Davis



A. LIPIN — By Jess Abrera

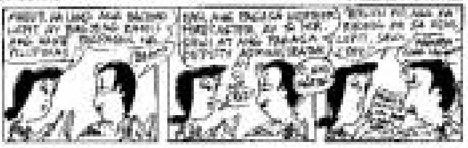


PUGAD BABOY — By Pol Medina Jr.

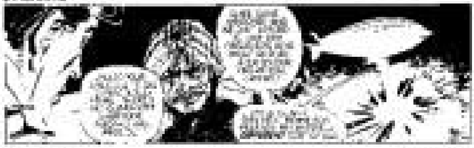


DICK TRACY





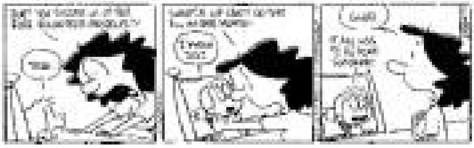
JAMES BOND



DIVINE COMEDY — By Steven Pabalinas

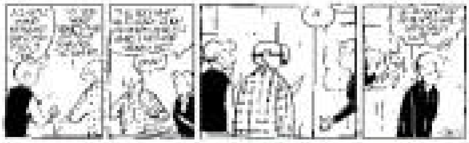


BABY BLUES — By Jerry Scott



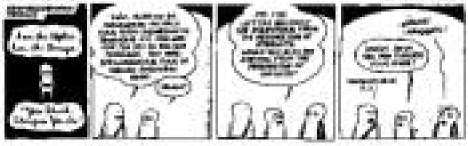


BEN — By Daniel Shelton



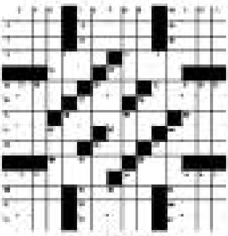


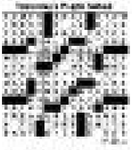
KIKO MACHINE — By Manix Abrera



HOROSCOPE

CROSSWORD PUZZLE





CONCEPTIS SU DOKU

Conceptis Sudoku

4	2							5
					3			2
				7	9			
	9	7						
		1		8		6		
						7	3	
			9	4				
2			1					
6							5	3

HOW TO PLAY SU DOKU

Answer to previous puzzle

'Hopia,' 'polvoron,' cake, bread, 'brazo de Mercedes'—all made of durian

LET'S FACE IT, YOU EITHER LOVE DURIAN or hate it.

KITCHEN RESCUE



Reggie Aspiras



BASKET of durian treats

'If each durian tree bore 50 fruits, selling them at P20 per kilo would mean P6 million'

Hexagon briquettes



COCONUT charcoal briquettes

FOODIE PROFILE

Lover of quarter-pounder and Kurobuta pork chop, Marielle exercises to eat



MARIELLE Santos-Po

Food Confessions

Kitchen Raid

Resto Faves

Small luxuries and delicious surprises—all in a day's work in this hotel

Rock star welcome

Ideal retreat



LUXURIOUS suite at Sofitel Philippine Plaza offers a magnificent view of Manila Bay

Delicious lunch



ONE OF the cooking stations at Spiral Restaurant

'But that's not me!'—Julie Powell on 'Julie & Julia'

Displeasure











3 designers and a chef give a luscious taste of futurism

Say it with jewelry and desserts





JEWELRY AND DESSERTS HAVE BECOME the last refuge of imagination and whimsy and one of the ways to communicate individuality.

What I learn from food tours

COUNTRY COOKING



Micky Fenix

I learned not only how to cook 'bringhe' and 'pacencia,' but also how to wrap 'suman,' make 'kesong puti,' cut 'pastillas' wrappers



Halloween treats for kids

Gilda Cordero Fernando exhibit opens at Silverlens



Pinoy chefs in LA present benefit dinner



Rotary fundraiser

Free symposium on cancer prevention

Holy Land pilgrimage

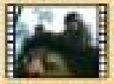
Casting event

Libera at PICC, Lahug Waterfront

ENTERTAINMENT

Editor: Ramon R. Velarde

Top 10 films at the US box office for the three-day weekend beginning Oct. 16



	Title	Gross	Wks
1	Where the Wild Things Are	[illegible]	[illegible]
2	Law Abiding Citizen	[illegible]	[illegible]
3	Paranormal Activity	[illegible]	[illegible]
4	Couples Retreat	[illegible]	[illegible]
5	The Stepfather	[illegible]	[illegible]
6	Cloudy With a Chance of Meatballs	[illegible]	[illegible]
7	Zombieland	[illegible]	[illegible]
8	Toy Story 1 & 2 (3D)	[illegible]	[illegible]
9	Surrogates	[illegible]	[illegible]
10	The Invention of Lying	[illegible]	[illegible]

Surprise for RP: Bernal film file

By Marinel R. Cruz

THE PHILIPPINES RECENTLY received a surprise gift from the Korean Film Archive: a digital data file of the Ishmael Bernal classic, "Manila By Night."

"This is unprecedented," film archivist Vicky Belarmino of the Media Arts Department of the Cultural Center of the Philippines told the Inquirer. "A total of P1 million is needed to digitize and restore a single movie—the amount covers the scanning of prints, color grading, color correction and transfer to 35mm film, among other things. This gift saved us at least half a million pesos."

The Philippines was this year's "country of honor" at the 14th Pusan International Film Festival, held in Busan from Oct. 8 to 16. A retrospective titled "Nakaw Philippine Independent Cinema" featured "Manila By Night" and 13 other Filipino films. Six more were shown in the Contents Section.

Belarmino related: "It is the practice of festival organizers to produce a copy of several featured films, for archival purposes. Cho Young-Jung (PIFF programmer for special programs) and I made a short-list for archiving. Out of the 14 titles, three do not have negatives. These are 'Manila By Night,' 'Lino Brocka's 'Insiang' and 'Hihi da Lover's Kiss.'"

More work needed

During the "Philippine Night" held on Oct. 12 at the Haeundae Grand Hotel in Busan, PIFF director Kim Dong-ho handed a sealed metal box to Film Development Council of the Philippines chairperson Rolando Atienza and Philippine Ambassador to Korea Luis Cruz. The box contained the hard disk drive and a number of high-definition tapes of "Manila By Night."

SURPRISE E3



CHEER FACTOR

ATTIC. Dennis Trillo gets mobbed by Korean girls.

Dennis Trillo, superstar in Busan

FOR ONE NIGHT, FILIPINO actor Dennis Trillo (left) experienced what it's like to be an overnight sensation in South Korea. After the gala screening of "Nasa Elepante" on Oct. 12 at the Okbangan Cinema City in Busan, a mob of Korean girls rushed to get Dennis' autograph and snapshots with him.

"I never imagined I'd get this kind of attention here," said Dennis. "Ruthy" competed in the New Currents Section of the 14th Pusan International Film Festival and brought home a special citation.

Marinel R. Cruz

U2 gig live on YouTube

WASHINGTON—IRISH ROCK BAND U2 announced Monday that its upcoming concert at the Pasadena Rose Bowl in California will be streamed live on YouTube.

CHEER FACTOR

"The band has been wanting to do something like this for a long time," U2 manager Paul McGuinness stated on the U2's website. "Fans often travel long distances to come to see U2—this time U2 can go to them, globally."

YouTube said Sunday's concert will be streamed live on the U2 channel at the video-sharing site. It can be watched live in Australia, Brazil, Britain, Canada, France, India, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Mexico, the Netherlands, New Zealand, South Korea, Spain and the US. AFP



IDOLS. Paula Abdul and Adam Lambert at the announcement of nominations for the 37th American Music Awards in Beverly Hills. REUTERS

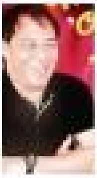

AKON

Akon tomorrow at the Big Dome

The Electromaniacs at Ayala Malls



'Voice For Change' at MOA


Willie Nepomuceno

Willie Nep at Music Museum

Bloomfields at Baga Beerde

Surprise…

Prospects galore

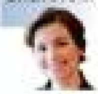
ENTERTAINMENT





A White House tour

BACK STORY



Lea Salonga



Another benefit for 'Ondoy' victims raised $20,000

Cris Comerford

